of runway, construction of new taxi- track and apron are in progress. The tenders for construction of new terminal building, other technical buildings and car park are under scrutiny for award of work. Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 79.27 Crore. The project is likely to be completed in November, 2003.

(b) At present, Turkmenistan airlines are operating five services per week, Uzbekistan Airways are operating six services per week to Amritsar, and Indian Airlines are operating twice weekly flight on Delhi-Amritsar-Sharjah & return route.

(c) Approval has been given to Ariana Afghan Airlines to operate twice weekly services to Amritsar. Approval has also been given to Uzbekistan Airways to operate upto seven frequencies each week in each direction between Amritsar and Tashkent.

DME at Madurai Airport

4961. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up High Power Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at Madurai Airport considering such facilities have been extended even to smaller airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) A High Power Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) is already in operation at Madurai airport.

(c) Does not arise.

Participation of foreign investors in domestic flights

†4962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the aeroplane manufacturing countries in the world are competing with each other to influence and create market in India;

(b) if so, the number of owners of foreign aeroplane manufacturing companies who participated in International Aerospace Conference held in Hyderabad recently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have also invited the foreign investors to participate in domestic flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Like other business establishments, foreign aircraft manufacturers are allowed to carry on legitimate business activities in India.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) and (d) The existing Domestic Air Transport Policy permits foreign equity participation upto 40% and NRI/OCB investment upto 100% in the domestic air transport services. However, equity from foreign airlines is not allowed directly or indirectly in the domestic air transport sector.

Credentials of private airlines

4963. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding the credentials of the private airlines operating in the domestic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against such private operators in the civil aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) On receipt of some adverse report from Government Agencies, the non-scheduled operating permits of M/s Mesco Airlines and M/s Delhi Flying Club have been cancelled by the M/o Civil Aviation. Recently certain adverse input against Chairman of Jet Airways have been received. The matter is being examined by the Government.

New Private Airlines

4964. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIAITON be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new private airlines are seeking permission to operate from India;